

## Supplemental Report- Case # 3503538

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On 8/17/2015, Special Investigator James Donovan received information concerning a case that Animal Control Officer Damon Goldston (radio # 2617) had responded to at 333 Van Brunt Boulevard. Officer Goldston had been dispatched to the address on 8/16/15 in regards to a dog in front of the address wrapped in a chain. Officer Goldston found the dog to be dead on arrival. He then impounded the k9 and transported to the animal shelter.

Once at the shelter, Officer Goldston made contact with veterinarian Sandra Walker, who performed a medical exam of the animal. After the exam, Officer Goldston placed the animal in a metal bin for disposal.

On 8/17/15, Special Investigator Donovan responded to the animal shelter to obtain the medical report from the 333 Van Brunt Investigation. Upon reading the report, it states that Sandra Walker DVM performed the medical exam on a deceased pitbull mix, female, brown/white. The vet report indicates that there was blood from the left nostril, left ear and a puncture wound on tongue. She also notes that there was scleral hemorrhage of the left eye; 3 cm diameter swelling ventral to the left eye. She further states no fractures, abrasions or lacerations identified and minimal autolysis; Injuries consistent with blunt trauma in the peri-mortem period. She states that the BCS score is a 5/9.

After receiving this vet report, Assistant Manager Derrick Jones and myself responded to the address of 333 Van Brunt Boulevard. We had gone to the scene to try and see if there was any evidence that still remained at the scene. Special Investigator Donovan was then able to locate blood in the travel path of the northbound lanes of Van Brunt Boulevard. There was also a blood trail observed, to the curb line where the k9 was found. At the curb line, there was more blood found. This is consistent with the photographs that Officer Goldston had taken, on the day he found the animal. I then attempted to make contact with several residences in the area, and got no answer.

Later in the day, I received a call from Sherri Gambino, who wanted to provide details in regards to the Van Brunt investigation. Mrs. Gambino wanted to know what our investigation had concluded. So at this time, I advised her that it appeared from what the vet report had provided and the evidence that was observed in the street, that the k9 was struck by a motor vehicle. Mrs. Gambino then asked a question about how the chain wrapped up around the dog's body. I then advised her that I could only speculate on what may have occurred, first answer I provided her was that the vehicle who struck the dog, and the dog then barrel rolled and the chain wrapped around the dog. The second conclusion I had was that the dog was struck and was still in the street, and possibly a Good Samaritan removed the dog by wrapping the dog up with the chain and pulled to the curb line. Mrs. Gambino then insisted that the dog had been dumped by a white truck. She further stated that there has been a white truck stealing dogs in the area recently. I then asked if any persons had made a police report to the dog thefts, her response was no. I then once again advised her that my investigation had revealed that k9 was struck by a vehicle, and with the vet report supporting that a blunt force trauma had occurred.

On 8/18/15, Assistant Manager had received a notification from the city manager office that another complaint had come in regards to animal control not investigating the dog found in the street. So I was directed to respond back to the area and conduct another area canvass of the area.

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I then responded to the following addresses:

339 Van Brunt - No answer

337 Van Brunt – Kezan Mirza answered the door, but there was a language barrier

335 Van Brunt- Fnu Zekrullah answered the door, but there was a language barrier

333 Van Brunt- Raphael Sadig, (816) 267-3451 stated that on 8/16/15 at 0832 hours he had called 911 to report a dead dog in front of his address.

331 Van Brunt- Christopher Laden, (816) 977-8814 stated that on 8/15/15 at 2045 to 2130 hours, a white Silverado pickup was traveling northbound, when the pickup struck the dog in the roadway. The eyewitness advised that the k9 then barrel rolled as the truck continued to drive over the dog. The dog then crawled to the curb line after being struck. Mr. Laden then stated that he had called 411 (information line) to be contacted to animal control, because he did not know the number. Mr. Laden advised that his wife also witnessed the events, but would not be home until after 230 pm. He further indicated that the neighbor who lives at 330 Van Brunt also witnessed the events as well. I then advised him that I would return to get her statement.

327 Van Brunt- spoke with several Hispanic males, who did not speak English, they advised that they had not seen anything.

At approximately 1640 hours on 8/18/15, Special Investigator Donovan returned back to the address of 331 Van Brunt and made contact with Christopher Laden and his wife Channel Laden. Channel went onto say that on 8/15/15, at approximately 2045-2130 hours that she had been inside the house, and heard a loud thump..thump and came outside to find a van that stopped in the middle of the street, who was on the phone with 911 concerning a dog which had been struck by a vehicle that had wondered out into the street, dragging a chain. She stated that the dog was alive, but injured when she came outside, she then went into the house to get her phone, and the time she came back out the dog had died.

While speaking to the witness, Special Investigator Donovan observed 3 pitbull puppies at large, which had come from 2 doors up the block. I then concluded the interview with the witness to take care of the loose k9's. I then followed the k9's back to the residence of 321 Van Brunt Boulevard, where I met 2 Hispanic females. I then introduced myself as Special Investigator with Animal Control, and asked if they spoke English, at which time I was advised by one of the Hispanic females that was later identified as Carmen Vazquez-Pena as being the dog owner, and that she spoke a little English. I was then able to communicate to her puppies had been at large. I then asked her where the mother of the puppies was at. She then replied that the dog had run off, and she did not know where the k9 was at. I then asked her what color was the dog; she indicated that it was brown/white. I then asked if the dog had a collar on. She then indicated that it had, and the collar was faded pink. She then stated that it was on the chain when she last saw it.

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At this time, I asked her to step over to my vehicle; I then pulled up Officer's Goldston report, and showed her the pictures of the dog that was struck by the truck. She immediately identified the dog as being her dog. She further stated that her dog's name was Daisy, and the dog had gotten loose on 8/14/15 at some point in the night. She then advised that she searched all day the next day and was not able to locate the dog.

While speaking with the suspect, the other eyewitness who lived at 330 Van Brunt arrived at home. I then asked for him to come over, at which time he did. He then advised that his name was Chester McDaniel, (816) 655-9594 who stated that on 8/15/15 at 2045-2130 hours he had observed a white pickup traveling northbound on Van Brunt, and he then stated that the k9 was wandering in the roadway dragging a chain, when the vehicle struck the dog. The dog was then run over, and while the truck continued the dog barrel rolled under the truck and then the truck ran it over again. The dog then crawled out the street behind a blue car, which was parked on the street, in front of the address of 333 Van Brunt. Mr. McDaniel advised that he had called 911 to report the dog being struck.

I then continued with my investigation with the suspect. I then issued tickets for the adult k9 for 14-33/14-27/14-60. I then issued tickets for the (3) pitbull puppies for 14-33. Since the puppies were only 3 months of age, they were not issued 14-27. I then also issued pitbull extension forms to the suspect. The suspect has till 9/1/15 to get the pitbulls altered. The puppies were described as follows: #1- pitbull mix, male, brown/white, "Malacko"; #2- pitbull mix, male, tan/white, "Bubu"; #3- pitbull mix, male, brindle brown/black/white. The court date is for October 13, 2015 at 10 am.

This investigation reveals that a white Silverado pick-up truck had struck the pitbull mix, female, brown/white on 8/15/15 at around 2045-2130 hrs. Both eyewitnesses confirm that the k9 was struck. The blood evidence that was found in the street and the vet reports of blunt force trauma.

This statement is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

**James Donovan**

*Special Investigator  
Animal Control Division*